

A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF LAND SNAIL FROM NORTH QUEENSLAND

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(One text figure.)

While the marine mollusca of eastern Australia are studied by many malacologists, both amateur and professional, only a few collectors take an interest in the terrestrial mollusca. However, collecting land snails can be very rewarding from a scientific point of view, for the terrestrial mollusca are still not well known, and many species remain to be described, while the study of distribution has hardly begun. The present paper deals with one new species which appears to be quite distinct from any known Australian group.

This interesting discovery was made by a New Zealand collector, Mr. L. Price, of Kaitaia, who visited Australia between 1956 and 1959, collecting mainly in Queensland. He obtained a large number of species from many localities, and a report on some of these is in preparation. The present species immediately stood out because of its flattened, multi-coiled shell, and at first sight recalled a miniature *Trochomorpha*. However, that genus does not occur in Australia, and the new species differed in a number of important ways. The glassy texture of fresh shells and the absence of well-developed sculpture marked the shell as zonitid in the broad sense. The only Australian species at all comparable in size and shape are the two Queensland species of the genus *Theskelomensor* Iredale, (*T. lizardensis* (Pfeiffer) and *T. creon* Solem.). These are of doubtful affinity, but in any case comparison shows that this genus and the new species are quite different. The latter is not so sharply keeled, and lacks the peripheral threads and ribbed sculpture of *Theskelomensor*.

A number of dead shells were collected, but living animals could not be found. Eventually the true family position of this species may be revealed by anatomical and radula study. Temporarily it may be assigned to the family Helicarionidae, following Baker's scheme for Pacific Islands zonitids, in which he includes Iredale's family Microcystidae. The latter includes a number of Queensland shells which are nearest to the present species.

CRATERODISCUS PRICEI gen. et. sp. nov.

Description: Shell small, the largest specimen 5.3 mm. major diameter, 4.9 mm. minor diameter, discoidal, the maximum height 2.4 mm.; texture smooth, glossy zonitid facies, deeply and broadly umbilicate; whorls six, tightly coiled, sutures impressed; shell almost planate above, whorls shouldered, the sides flattened, whorls rounded beneath; shoulder bluntly keeled, the maximum diameter of the body whorl at the shoulder, the sides of the whorls receding ventrally; apical whorls smooth, adult whorls obscurely sculptured with fine lines of growth which are sometimes a little coarse and regularly spaced, more often irregular and obsolete; aperture semi-lunar, lip simple, sharp; colour translucent yellowish-white. Animal and radula unknown.

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Dimensions:

	Major Diameter	Minor Diameter	Height
Holotype	4.7 mm.	4.4 mm.	1.9 mm.
Paratype	4.5	4.1	1.7

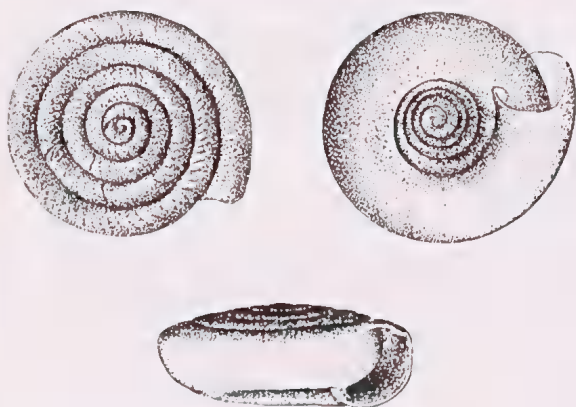
Type Locality: Hypipamee Crater, Atherton Tableland, North Queensland. In leaf mould, common, October 1958.

Types: The holotype and five paratypes are in the Australian Museum, Register Numbers C. 62650 and 62651 respectively. Eight additional paratypes are in Mr. Price's collection.

Remarks: *Craterodiscus pricei* is the type of the genus *Craterodiscus* by monotypy. The genus differs from other genera of Helicarionidae in its discoidal form, shouldered whorls, combined with the broadly open umbilicus and lack of notable sculpture.

References:

- BAKER, H. B. 1938-41, Zonitid Snails from Pacific Islands Parts 1, 2 and 3. *Bull. Bishop Museum*, Nos. 158, 165, 166.
- IREDALE, T., 1933, Systematic Notes on Australian Land Shells. *Rec. Australian Mus.*, 19: 54.
- IREDALE, T., 1937, A Basic List of the Land Mollusca of Australia Part 2. *Aust. Zoologist*, 9: 1-39.
- SOLEM, A., 1958, A New Land Shell from Queensland. *Nautilus*, 72: 20-22, pl. 3, figs. 1-3.



Craterodiscus pricei McMichael. Holotype: Dorsal, Ventral and Apertural Views. B.P. Bertram del. Magnification X 6.